

Normal to Chicago, where they held a protest rally outside the EEOC office there. Mitsubishi not only paid for the buses, they also closed the assembly line for two full shifts, they paid regular salaries to those workers who made the trip to Chicago, and they provided lunch for the protesters.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the way we in the United States settle discrimination suits. Under the rule of law, these issues are decided upon in a court of law based upon their merits. The EEOC is a Federal agency entrusted with enforcing our country's laws against discrimination based on race, sex, religion, age, etc. That agency takes seriously those responsibilities, and it does not file frivolous lawsuits. A protest outside the EEOC's office in Chicago indicates to me that Mitsubishi's legal case must be particularly weak. In addition, a rowdy protest does not strike me as doing anything to resolve the serious legal issues involved here. It may, however, be beneficial to the careers of the American managers of the Normal plant.

Second, Mr. Speaker, this protest strikes me as a tactic to pressure the workers at the Mitsubishi plant to oppose the EEOC suit. Those who went to Chicago to protest against the sexual harassment suit publicly signed a list to indicate their intention to go to Chicago. Those employees who chose not to go were forced to appear at the factory in order to be paid. Clearly the way in which that protest was organized put intolerable pressure on Mitsubishi employees. Such pressure tactics against its employees should be firmly condemned.

Third, Mr. Speaker, based on some of my own activities here in the Congress, there is sound basis for concern about the real possibility of sexual harassment in this case. For 6 years during the 100th through the 102d Congresses, I had the privilege of serving as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Employment and Housing of the Government Operations Committee. During that period of time I held a series of hearings on "Employment Discrimination by Japanese Firms in the United States" (July 23, August 8, September 24, 1991, and February 26 and June 18, 1992). We found a pervasive pattern of lack of sensitivity to issues of discrimination by a number of Japanese firms. Among our very serious concerns was strong evidence of sexual discrimination.

What our hearings found was a surprising and very disturbing insensitivity on the part of Japanese management to American laws and American practices against sexual harassment and against sexual discrimination. Mr. Speaker, these practices by Japanese management were exposed and in some cases changes were made by the firms involved, but I would be surprised indeed to find that these problems have been eliminated completely. Clearly if the EEOC charges are true, it reflects a serious lack of sensitivity on the part of Mitsubishi management, and that management has the responsibility to see that sexual harassment does not take place at its plant.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the EEOC for its vigilance in dealing with these serious charges, and I urge the Commission to move forward. These charges should be completely aired and resolved through our legal system. I also urge the management of Mitsubishi to put aside its tawdry and counterproductive public relations tactics and respect the rights of its own workers.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS, NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 1996*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this year, 1996, the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America is celebrating its 100th anniversary. As part of these nationwide commemorations, the Jewish War Veterans Department of New Jersey is having a military ball at the Officers Club, Gibbs Hall, Fort Monmouth, on Thursday, April 25.

The Centennial Journal being issued by the New Jersey Department in conjunction with this important anniversary is dedicated to the memory of Stanley J. Wides, past department commander and executive director. Thursday's event is also an opportunity to honor past national commanders.

Mr. Speaker, it is always a pleasure for me to pay tribute to the New Jersey Jewish War Veterans. The Jewish War Veterans is the oldest active veterans organization in the country, and it is an honor to work on behalf of their agenda and on behalf of those men and women who sacrificed so much to safeguard our freedoms here at home and to make the world safe and free for future generations. I wish them great success on tomorrow evening's ball at Fort Monmouth, and I look forward to continued partnership with this great organization with its long, distinguished and proud history.

TRIBUTE TO ALOIS VANA, RETIRED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BERWYN PARK DISTRICT

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 1996*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding gentleman from my district who has devoted himself to his community, Mr. Alois Vana, the retired executive director of the Berwyn, IL, Park District, who will receive the All Berwyn Committee's 1996 Merit Award April 26.

Mr. Vana, a Berwyn native who grew up across the street from one of the parks he would eventually oversee, joined the district as superintendent in 1958, and he served his community for 37 years before retiring December 31, 1995.

Mr. Vana, an Army veteran, also served as president of the Berwyn Kiwanis Club and United Way, and has contributed to many other charitable and civic organizations, including the West Suburban Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the Berwyn Tree Board.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Vana on receiving this honor from the All Berwyn Committee and wish him many more years of service to his community.

COMMENDING THE NEW YORK TIMES ON ITS EARTH DAY EDITORIAL

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 1996*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring the attention of my colleagues to the following Earth Day editorial which appeared in the April 22, 1996, New York Times.

This editorial correctly points out that the American public will not be fooled by the hollow illustrations of environmentalism displayed today in the districts of many congressional Republicans—the same Members of Congress who, over the past year, have consistently voted for legislation to repeal decades of environmental protection for our air, our water, and our public lands. Planting a tree, collecting litter or visiting a zoo today will do little to mask the year-long environmental assault orchestrated by the Republican Congress.

As noted in the editorial, the persistent Republican efforts to include antienvironmental riders on the appropriations bills for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Interior are most egregious. Although both of these bills have been vetoed by President Clinton, Republicans still insist on including many of the most offensive provisions in an omnibus budget bill to fund the agencies through the end of the fiscal year. Even Speaker GINGRICH has acknowledged that including objectional policy riders in appropriations bills greatly reduces their chances of eluding another Presidential veto. Today's Washington Post quotes the Speaker as estimating that the chances of passing a funding bill for the remaining agencies is "probably about 50-50" but that the odds improve if the contentious policy riders were removed and debated separately.

I commend the New York Times for its continually excellent editorials and note that the 1996 Pulitzer Prize awarded to Robert B. Stemple, Jr., for his editorials on environmental issues is richly deserved.

DEFENDING MOTHER NATURE

The television networks and cable channels are falling over each other to satisfy a growing public appetite for nature programming. An article in The Times last week noted that wildlife programs, once the preserve of the Public Broadcasting Service, have spread like mangroves to NBC, Turner Broadcasting, the Discovery Channel and Disney, among others. This is welcome news. Quite apart from the fact that such programming is of a higher order than most television fare, its popularity is further evidence of what the polls have already told us. Americans care about what is left of their natural resources and the threatened creatures who inhabit them.

Viewers would be equally well served, however, if television stole just a few minutes from the air time now devoted to wolves, wildflowers, sharks and salmon and trained its cameras on the denizens of the United States Congress, where a less inspiring show is taking place. Undaunted by a string of Presidential vetoes, heedless of public opinion and deaf to the pleas of their moderate colleagues, conservative Republicans and a few stray Democrats are pressing forward with their efforts to undermine the country's basic environmental laws.

There are many destructive proposals on the Congressional agenda, including several